

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C §§ 102 and 103 citing Engfer, Friend and Turnbull is acknowledged with gratitude.

In another preliminary matter, claim 1 is amended herein to include the features of claim 13. For consistency, claims 13 to 15 are cancelled herein without prejudice to their reintroduction later in the prosecution or in a continuing application. In addition, claim 3 is amended to include a pressure sensor as an alternative to the solid state lighting. A basis for these amendments may be found in the claims as originally filed, *inter alia*. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced into the application by these amendments.

Turning now to substantive issues, the final Official Action issued on April 18, 2007, has rejected claims 1 through 15 as anticipated by U.S. Patent Appln. Publn. No. 2001/033347 by Kitahora et al. (hereinafter "Kitahora"). This is the sole substantive reason set forth in the Official Action why the present application should not be allowed. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

It is well established that a claim is not anticipated unless the cited reference identically sets forth every element of the claimed invention. See, e.g., the M.P.E.P. at § 2131. Kitahora, however, does not describe every element of newly amended claim 1.

In particular, claim 1, as amended, requires that the laminated polymer be flexible and adaptable to various shapes and forms. The laminate described by Kitahora cannot be flexible, however, because it is required to include inflexible layers such as hardcoats and gas barriers of silica or alumina. See, e.g., the Abstract of Kitahora, and paragraphs [0040] to [0043]. In fact, every working example in Kitahora includes a gas barrier. See, e.g., paragraph [0385]. In addition, every figure in Kitahora (excepting FIGS. 9 and 10, which depict a process and a schematic, respectively, rather than a display element) includes one or more of a gas barrier layer (GB, paragraph [0242]) and a hardcoat layer (HC, paragraph [0273]).

Neither hardcoats nor gas barrier layers are flexible and adaptable to various shapes and forms. Accordingly, the presence of even one of these layers in a laminate described by Kitahora places that laminate outside the scope of newly amended claim 1.

In this connection, Applicants emphasize that the substrate described by Kitahora may indeed be flexible. See, e.g., paragraph [0168]. It is apparent, however, that the flexibility of a substrate does not necessarily render a laminate flexible. Moreover, when, as in Kitahora, the laminate is required to include inflexible layers, then the laminate cannot be flexible, despite the flexibility of the substrate.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of newly amended claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn upon reconsideration.

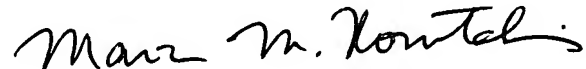
Finally, the rejection of claims 13 to 15 is rendered moot by their cancellation without prejudice herein. Claims 2 through 12 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1. It follows by statute that these claims are also not anticipated, for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended herein. Accordingly, Applicants further respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2 to 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn upon reconsideration.

Conclusion

A Petition for an Extension of Time for one month and the required fee for the extension are filed concurrently herewith. Should any further fee be required in connection with the present response, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fee, or render any credit, to Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company).

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that pending claims 1 to 12 are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. In closing, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (302) 892-1004 to conduct any business that may advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria M. Kourtakis".

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